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4 April 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Director's Conversation with Mel Elfin, of Newsweek

1. Today the Director told me of a conversation he had last Friday with Mel Elfin, of Newsweek, during which Elfin made the following points:

a. Carl Marcy has recently commented that CIA is very forthcoming and Mr. Helms has a good reputation for integrity, "but you've got to know what to ask him."

b. Stennis is upset over the alarmist briefings of Secretary Laird.

c. The Cooper bill will probably be reported out by the Foreign Relations Committee with only Senator McGee opposed.

d. Symington may push for an intelligence watch dog committee in the next few weeks--he is incensed over the failure of the Stennis Subcommittee to hold hearings this session.


e. Stennis probably won't oppose the Cooper bill.

f. Nedzi is feeling his way in his new responsibility. He too may not oppose the Cooper bill in the belief that it could help him in this new responsibility. The best guess is that the bill may pass the Senate and die in the House.

g. Ellender and Stennis are both upset at the intelligence situation in the Defense Department.

h. Congress is not worried about the quantity of intelligence put out by CIA but is determined to make it more available to the Congress. This represents a real compliment to CIA--both the "ins" and "outs" are unanimous in their high regards for Helms.

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